

Application Date: July 11, 1933. No. 19,579 / 33.

Complete Left: July 9, 1934.

Complete Accepted: Nov. 29, 1934.



## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

### Improvements in Bed Screens particularly for Hospital and Institution Purposes.

We, ROBERT YOUNG KYFFYN NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, DERMOT KNOX LLOYD NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, and JAMES KNOX NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, all of King Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention relates to a hospital or institution bed screen of the kind comprising a plurality of hinged sections, for example three sections, supported upon wheels or castors and adapted to be opened out for use and to be folded face to face when not required, the wheels or castors permitting of the screen being moved from place to place as desired.

Each section consists usually of a vertically disposed rectangular skeleton frame equipped with a removable fabric curtain fitting within the frame and attached to the upper and lower parts thereof by respective extensible springs introduced through top and bottom hems of the curtain and connected at their respective ends to the opposite vertical side tubes of the frame.

It is found in practice that hospital and other attendants grasp the curtain when manœuvring or moving the screen, and which causes the springs to frequently break, thus rendering the screen temporarily unusable or alternatively the springs become stretched and the curtains sag and become inefficient.

The object of the invention is to overcome this disadvantage in a simple, efficient and inexpensive manner.

According to the invention the tops and bottoms of the curtains are supported by horizontally disposed telescopic elements, whose ends are applied to the opposite side tubes of the frames and removably connected thereto by any well-known expedient, such as by a spring arranged between the telescopic elements by which they are normally moved away from each other.

According to one constructional adaptation of the invention the respective upper and lower ends of the side tubes are formed as aligned sockets to receive the one end of the telescopic rod and the outer end of a tube within which the rod slides against the action of a compressible spring.

In another form of the invention a plunger rod is applied at each end of a tube housing an intermediate compressible spring between the respective inner ends of the rods whose outer ends are adapted to engage the sockets referred to.

It is an easy manner according to the first form of the invention to disconnect the curtain by pressing the rod inwardly within the tube against the action of the spring so as to disengage the rod end from the socket and thereafter the extreme end of the tube is withdrawn from its supporting socket.

Dated this 10th day of July, 1933.

For the Applicants,

GEORGE T. FUERY,

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## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### Improvements in Bed Screens particularly for Hospital and Institution Purposes.

We, ROBERT YOUNG KYFFYN NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, DERMOT KNOX LLOYD NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, and JAMES KNOX NESBIT EVANS, a British Subject, all of King Street, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what

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manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a hospital or institution bed screen of the kind comprising a plurality of sections hinged the one to the other, for example four sections, and

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supported upon wheels or castors, the sections being adapted to be opened out for use and to be folded face to face when not required, thus permitting of the screen being moved from one place to another as desired in a compact condition. Each section consists of a vertically disposed rectangular skeleton frame equipped with a removable fabric curtain fitting within the frame and previously attached to the upper and lower parts thereof by respective extensible springs introduced through top and bottom hems of the curtains and connected at their respective ends to the opposite vertical side tubes of the frame.

It is found in practice that hospital and other attendants grasp the curtain when manœuvring or moving the screen, and which causes frequent breaking of the springs thus rendering the screen temporarily disabled, or alternatively the springs become stretched and the curtains sag and become inefficient.

The object of the invention is to overcome this disadvantage in a simple, efficient and inexpensive manner.

Accordingly the invention consists in the combination with a screen of the kind set forth of upper and lower telescopic curtain rods whose respective ends engage, or are adapted to engage, sockets formed in or on opposite vertical sides of the rectangular frame sections near the top and bottom thereof.

Preferably the telescopic curtain rods consist of a rod engaging a tube against the action of a compression spring, the frame engaging ends of the rod and tube being plain for the simple introduction thereof within opposite holes formed in the sides of tubular frames.

It is easy to disconnect a curtain from a frame, as by pressing the rod inwardly within the tube against the action of the spring so as to disengage the rod end from the socket and thereafter the extreme end of the tube is withdrawn from its supporting socket.

The invention is represented in its most desirable form by Figs. 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawings, and in a modified form by Fig. 4, similar numerals of reference denoting corresponding parts throughout the several views.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the improved bed screen in open position.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the screen in a folded position.

Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional elevation on an enlarged scale of the upper portion of a hinged section.

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional elevation similar to Fig. 3 of the modification.

With reference to Figs. 1 to 3, the screen comprises four rectangular sections 1, built up of strong, light, tubular steel, the sections being hinged together in pairs at two positions 2, and each frame being mounted on easy running castors 3, preferably rubber tyred, and mounted upon feet 4 pivotally connected to the horizontal base portion 5 of each frame. Due to this arrangement the sections of the screen may open out for use and may be folded face to face when not required, and the unit may be bodily moved from place to place on the castors as desired. The foregoing is general practice in the art as also is it to equip each section 1 with a removable fabric or like curtain extending practically from the upper horizontal tubular member 6 of the corresponding lower member 5.

In contra distinction to that manner of applying the curtains hereinbefore referred to, the tops and bottoms of the curtains are supported on horizontally disposed telescopic elements 7 whose plain ends 8, 9, are applied to the opposite vertical side tubes 10, the ends of the components of the telescopic elements being arranged to be supported by the side tubes 10. In the examples shown the side tubes 10 are provided with co-axial sockets 11 to receive the end 8 of the rod 12 and the end 9 of the tube 13 of each telescopic element 7.

The one end of a coiled compression spring 14 is suitably anchored within the tube 13 by encircling the riveted pin 15, and its other end forms a yielding abutment for the rod 12. When the hem of the curtain has been threaded over the telescopic element, engagement with a screen section is effected by introducing the one end of the telescopic element into the sockets 11 and subsequently moving inwardly the rod or the tube, as the case may be, so that the other end of the telescopic element is similarly engaged within the other socket of the opposite side tube, thus providing a simple and efficient means for holding the curtain in position.

According to the modification illustrated at Fig. 4, a pair of plunger rods 12 are arranged to slide within the ends of the tube 13, the spring 14 being retained in position by the riveted pin 15. It will be readily appreciated that if the curtains mounted on the telescopic elements are subjected to mis-use in the manœuvring of the screen, as hereinbefore referred to, they will not sag and there will be no likelihood of the curtains being inadvertently disconnected.

We make no claim per se to a telescopic curtain rod as the same is known

for the fitting of curtains to windows and for the fixing of carpets to stairs, in connection with which it is observed that each end of the telescopic fitting has fixed  
 5 thereto a socket type knob having an external axial pin to engage a recess in the skirting of the stairs, the one knob being fixed and the other slidable on the tube against a spring encircling an  
 10 inwardly directed rod guidably supported in the tube.

Nor do we make claim to a known curtain rod consisting of a tube, a spiral spring therein and a rod within each end  
 15 of the tube engaging the ends of the spring, the ends of the rods having an india-rubber tip or a spike to form a means of supporting the curtain rod without brackets or sockets.

20 Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

25 1. The combination with a hospital or institution bed-screen of the kind herein-

before defined of upper and lower telescopic curtain rods whose respective ends engage, or are adapted to engage, sockets formed in or on opposite vertical sides of the rectangular frame sections near the top and bottom thereof. 30

2. Bedscreen according to claim 1, wherein the telescopic curtain rods each embody a rod engaging a tube against the action of a compression spring, the frame-engaging ends of the rod and tube being plain for the simple introduction thereof within opposite holes formed in the sides of tubular frames. 35 40

3. The improved bed screen of the kind set forth and having curtains adapted for application to the frames thereof in the manner substantially as described and as illustrated by Figs. 1 to 3 or Fig. 4 of the annexed drawings. 45

Dated this 6th day of July, 1934.

For the Applicants,

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[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

